

# THE RESPONDER

January 2010



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## A Retrospective....

January 2010, marks the one year anniversary of The Responder, Alexandria Fire Departments monthly newsletter. I would like to share some of the



Doug Townshend and brother Mike

memorable articles found in The Responder over the past twelve months. The March edition covered Doug Townshend's heroic efforts to save the life of his brother Mike. Friday night March 13, 2009, Doug Townshend and his wife Kris were heading out when they noticed smoke in the neighborhood and soon realized the smoke was coming from his brother's house as flames were venting from the kitchen. Doug was quoted "I was either going to find him or I was going to die in there with him, cause I won't be able to live with myself, leaving him". I am confident

Doug will demonstrate the same heroic effort if a fire occurs in the City and a brother firefighter is in peril.

May's edition covered a fortunate encounter with out of town guests at the Lebanon Union Church Cemetery. As fate would have it, Lisa Jones was at the cemetery participating in Spring for Alexandria, when she spotted Dan and Debbie Kidd taking pictures from outside the cemetery fence. Lisa asked if they were there

to visit a family member. They were there looking for Debbie's great-great grandfather, Samuel Dove. Debbie, and her husband Dan, who live in South Carolina, had tried locating the cemetery two years earlier but could not find it. The BFSPA members went from gravestone to gravestone, lifting fallen headstones, hoping

to find the gravestone marker bearing the name. After overturning numerous grave markers, members lifted up a rectangle granite headstone that was spotted with dirt. Etched into it was "SAMUEL DOVE 1845 – 1926" and "MARY E., HIS WIFE 1853 – 1906."

August's edition covered two worthy events. The fill the Boot Campaign and The Equity Diversity Conference. The 2009 Fill the



City Manager, Jim Hartmann, with Debbie and Dan Kidd pose with volunteers participating in Spring for Alexandria

Boot Campaign brought together all three labor organizations for a very

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## A Retrospective.....continued

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Fire department representatives Wells Wilson, Reggie Rich and David Denardo presented a check for \$5,000 to the MDA at the annual telethon

worthy cause. Thanks to the efforts of the International Association of Firefighter's (IAFF) local 2141, the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria (BFSPA)

and Alexandria Medics Association, more than 5,000 was raised for MS.

The Equity Diversity Conference was held in Alexandria for the first time in the Conference's 18 year history. The Conference, despite a sagging economy and travel restrictions placed on Fire Departments, had a record attendance. For the first time in the Conference's

history, representatives from international fire service employee groups assembled in a structured Town Hall style setting. The Panel consisted of Kelvin Cochran, United States Fire

Administrator and representatives from the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association; International Women in Fire & Emergency Service; International Association of Black Professional Firefighters; International Association of Fire Chiefs; National Association of Hispanic Firefighters; International Association of Firefighters.



## Station 209 Continues to Receive Attention



Emergency Management students from China inspect apparatus

A twelve member delegation and an interpreter from the Chinese Work Safe and Emergency Management Department visited the station in January. The Chinese Emergency Management students wanted get some information on how the Alexandria Fire Department handles Haz Mat incidents. Through the interpreter, they commented how "impressively informative and educational" the tour was. They

toured the station and some residential units.

Simultaneously a group consisting of Michaels Development Company, the Wilmington Public Housing Authority, and The City of Wilmington, Delaware, visited the station.

They are partnering to build a new fire station and housing development in Wilmington, and were very interested in the concept of building a combined fire station/ housing facility. They believe it could be the perfect option for their location.



Chief North with representatives from Wilmington



## Recruitment Update

The recruitment / selection process began in August 2009 when Gary Tobias was selected to be the recruitment officer. The selection process consists of the following: written exam; a video based test (Ergometrics); physical agility test; oral panel interview; polygraph; psychological exam, a background check, medical physical exam and finally an interview with the fire chief.

The written test was administered at G W Middle School in October. 550 applicants showed up for the test., 280 passed. Ergometrics is a video-based testing system that assesses critical skills necessary to be a firefighter and includes the often overlooked content areas of teamwork and

human relations. 185 passed the Ergometrics exam, which was given in November. The CPAT (Candidate Physical Agility Test) was used for the physical agility component of the selection process. The CPAT test was administered in January, all candidates were offered fifteen sessions to practice prior to a timed run. 135 passed the CPAT test. The next process was the oral panel interview, given in January. 84 applicants moved forward to the polygraph examination and background checks, performed congruently. Currently there are 66 applicants left in the process, awaiting the psychological examination. The fire

chief's interviews are scheduled to begin March 1 through March 5. The recruit school is

scheduled to begin April 5, 2010.



## Spot Light

Brian was born right here in Alexandria. As a young child his family moved around between western Pennsylvania, Connecticut and then settled back in Virginia. From that point forward he was raised by his mother and grandmother along with his 2 sisters and aunt in the house (Surrounded by girls again.).

Upon graduating high school Brian began working with Buck Hall Volunteer Fire Department in Prince William County, where he remained active for 10 years. He utilized his EMS skills working in Alexandria and Prince William Hospitals, while working his way through college.

Upon hearing that the Alexandria Fire Department was hir-

ing new EMS providers, Brian decided to throw his name into the hat. Brian joined the Alexandria Fire Department in April of 1997 and has continued to move through the ranks. He was promoted to the position of EMS Supervisor in February 2003. In 2009 he received the Sons of the American Revolution's Fire-fighter of The Year Award. Brian was recently promotion to EMS Operations Manager a position he has filled on an acting basis since February 2008.

Brian is continuing to work toward the completion of his Bachelors degree in EMS Management at GW University and enjoys spending time with his family. Brian has been married to his wife, Cindy, for 10 years and they are raising 3 girls; Madison – 8, Kaitlyn – 6, and

Anna – 2. (Surrounded by girls again.)

Brian enjoys watching football and hockey, as he is an avid Redskins and Capitals fan. He also enjoys photography, SCUBA diving, boating and playing golf whenever he can.



Brian Hricik, Kaitlyn, wife Cindy, Anna and Madison

## Testing Testing Testing..

### Air management Drill



Hose Roll



Stair Climb



1,000. psi air consumption



Confined Space crawl



Pike Pole pull



Sled



Captain Kunkle Swimming two Laps

### Marine Operations Swim Test



Captain Casalena and firefighter Renick  
treading water for three minutes



Firefighter Evans dove twelve feet and  
retrieved a brick



## Awards and Recognition



Brian Hricik promoted to Emergency Operations Manager

## Retirements and Farewells



Craig Youngdale  
Years of Service



Felipe Guidotti  
20 Years of Service

## December Communications Statistics

FIRE ALARM HEADQUARTERS CALLS PROCESSED	
911	1065
Administration Received	4946
Administration Dialed	1794
Dispatched Calls	
Total calls	7,880

## December Run Statistics

	Unit	EMS	SUP	TOTAL	Current Yr	Previous Yr
Station 201	E201	41	69	110	1,439	1,422
Station 202	M202	41	69	199	2,250	2,205
Station 203	E203	59	49	108	1,212	1,265
	T203	11	75	86	1,003	954
Total		70	124	194	2,215	2,219
Station 204	E204	55	76	131	1,375	1,319
	T204	8	115	123	1,451	1,389
Total		63	191	254	2,826	2,708
Station 205	E205	68	116	184	2,105	2,127
	M205	200	44	244	3,045	2,857
Total		268	160	428	5,150	4,984
Station 206	E206	83	130	213	2,139	1,974
	M206	197	41	238	2,863	2,806
	R206	0	0	0	234	534
Total		280	171	451	5,236	5,314
Station 207	E207	80	104	184	2,171	2,230
	M207	167	47	214	2,523	2,469
Total		247	151	398	4,694	4,699
Station 208	E208	109	166	275	2,944	2,828
	M208	197	55	252	3,027	2,877
	T208	22	19	141	1,465	1,366
Total		328	340	668	7,436	7,071
Station 209	E209	58	76	134	1,440	1,357
	H209	0	0	0	0	0
Total		58	76	134	1,440	1,357
Station totals		1,517	1,319	2,836	32,686	31,979